

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Figs. 1 and 2 and replaces the original sheet with Figs. 1 and 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2 and for clarity. Claims 3, 5 and 7 are amended in view of the amendments to claim 1 and for clarity. Claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 are canceled.

Figs. 1 and 2 are amended, as the Examiner requested. The specification is amended for clarity, as the Examiner requested.

No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the specification and Figs. 1 and 2. The specification and Figs. 1 and 2 are amended, as the Examiner requested. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification and to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 2-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 are canceled, and claims 3, 5 and 7 are amended, as outlined above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,982,256 to Uchimura. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2, which is not rejected over Uchimura. In fact, Uchimura does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 2, incorporated in claim 1. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:GL/eks

Attachment:
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